

ABSTRACT

A preliminary archaeological resource assessment was conducted on five city blocks of a proposed road widening and new alignment project on the eastern segment of the Wilmington Boulevard, Wilmington, New Castle County, Delaware. The project is part of the Wilmington Boulevard National Register Historic District which had a Determination of Eligibility completed in May 1981. Archaeological investigations consisted of background and archival research, subsurface testing via backhoe trenching and controlled excavations and artifact analysis. Results of the archival and field investigations indicate that three areas, all outside of the proposed roadway, retain cultural integrity and have been recommended for preservation, Block 1191 Lot 10; Block 1192 lots 31 and 32; and Block 1184 Lot 58. The artifacts recovered from these three preserved areas range in age from the mid 18th century through the early 20th century with a majority of the recovered materials dating to the late 19th century. Historic research combined with artifact functional classifications indicate changing land use patterns involving domestic, commercial and industrial use. All areas within the proposed Wilmington Boulevard widening and realignment project are cleared of any impact to significant cultural resources and the National Register of Historic Places criteria need not be addressed.